



KANSAS FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

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PAM SCOTT
Topeka

To: Senate Commerce Committee

From: Pam Scott
KFDA Executive Director

Date: February 8, 2018

Re: Senate Bill No. 339

Chairperson Lynn and members of the Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on Senate Bill No. 339. I appear on behalf of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association which represents Kansas funeral establishments, funeral directors and embalmers.

Specifically, the KFDA supports the amendment to K.S.A. 44-510b(f) on page 3, line 9 through 12 of Senate Bill No. 339 which would increase the funeral benefit paid under workers compensation from \$5000 to \$15,000. The last time the funeral benefit was increased was in 1998 when it was increased from \$4300 to \$5000.

According to the National Funeral Directors Association 2017 General Price List Study, the national medium cost of a funeral with viewing and burial for calendar year 2016 was \$7360. If a vault is included the price increases to \$8755. This includes a funeral with viewing and a ceremony and includes the following products and services: basic services fee, removal/transfer of remains to funeral home, embalming and other preparation of the body, use of facilities and staff for viewing and for a ceremony at the funeral home, hearse, service car/van, basic memorial printed package and metal casket. It does not include cemetery expenses, monument or marker costs or miscellaneous cash advance charges such as flowers, death certificates or an obituary.

The national medium cost of an adult funeral with viewing and cremation was \$6260 in 2016. This includes basic services fee, removal/transfer of remains to funeral home, embalming and other preparation of the body, use of facilities and staff for viewing and for a ceremony at the funeral home, service car/van, basic memorial printed package, cremation fee, cremation casket and urn.

As stated above, the figures do not include cemetery expenses. I do not know of a good source to find average cemetery expenses. I did call some funeral homes in some of the larger cities of the state to determine a price range for burial spaces and opening and closing costs. Costs are often higher in metropolitan areas. Although not a formal survey, it appears grave opening and closing costs average around \$1500 and grave spaces around \$2000. Of course, costs can be lower or higher depending on the cemetery, where the lot is located and whether the cemetery is publically or privately owned.

The KFDA hopes you will agree that these surveys support the need to increase the workers compensation funeral benefit that has not been increased since 1998. This will assure that families can provide a meaningful funeral for their loved one who has died as a result of a work accident. We ask for your support of Senate Bill No. 339.